

Future NEWS

S Y S T E M S , I N C .

Future Systems To Manufacture GT Product Line

In a complex transaction, involving cash, exchange of assets, royalties and other considerations, Future Systems recently purchased exclusive, world-wide, manufacturing and marketing rights for the entire Indus GT Disk Drive product line. (Indus Systems itself has ceased all operations.)

According to Future Systems' President, Gary Grewal, "Our team has domestic and offshore experience in manufacturing sub-assemblies, circuit boards, magnetic read/write heads, disk drive mechanisms, and other critical parts used in the GT Disk Drives. We already possess the basic production techniques and skills required to build GT Disk Drives. The technological know-how we've gained during the last 10 years will help us make significant improvements in the precision, reliability, and cost effectiveness of the GT Disk Drives; what we have learned in putting together computers and computer sub-systems of all kinds gives us the perspective necessary to help the GT meet the market's demands for overall system performance improvements."

Within just a few weeks after the acquisition, Future Systems has introduced the RAM Charger - a 64K RAM Card which enables the use of CP/M on the Atari, an improved Synchromesh II - faster and better than the original release, set in motion a number of product improvement projects, and has instituted the most rigorous quality control/assurance programs of any peripheral or computer manufacturer.

The future for the GT Disk Drive product line has never been brighter.

RAM Charger & CP/M 2.2 Released for Atari GT

Benefits:

- 10,000+ New Software Titles for Atari Owners
- Availability of Powerful Software Protects Investment in Atari Hardware
- Data Files/Diskettes Transportable to IBM
- Supports Second Drive (GT or Atari) No Second RAM Charger Required
- Low Cost Accessory Yields Tremendous System Improvements
- Provides Workspace for Future Software Enhancements

Future Systems has released the RAM Charger, a 64K RAM Card for the GT Disk Drive for Atari.

The price for the RAM Charger Card with the CP/M 2.2 Operating System is \$129.00 (or only \$99 if you do not wish to purchase the CP/M 2.2 Operating System).

What Does It Do?

The engine of your GT Disk Drive is driven by a powerful 4 Mega-Hertz Z-80 Microprocessor (the 6502 in your Atari Computer is only 1 Mega-Hertz for comparison). The creators of the GT Disk Drive planned for growth by making it possible for future hardware and software designers to harness more of the power of this Z-80 Microprocessor.

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They did this in two ways: Firstly, the GT Disk Drive is programmable, that is you can send code from your computer into your GT which can then be executed (or "RUN") inside the drive to change its basic operating mode or run a program for some other purpose (ever wondered how Synchromesh operated or how the GT could change its sector interleaving). Secondly, a connector and adequate power was made available so that an additional circuit board could be mounted inside the GT -- this additional board could perform any number of functions.

The RAM Charger Module is one such board that can be mounted inside the GT Disk Drive for Atari. The RAM Charger's primary function is to provide an additional 64K Bytes of RAM for use by the GT's Z-80 computer. With this 64K RAM available, the GT Disk Drive can run CP/M, an operating system which makes more than 10,000 titles of software available to Atari/GT owners. This same 64K RAM can be used by the GT to perform other functions; for instance, Synchromesh II will take advantage of the RAM Charger by adding a "disk-buffer" function and increasing the speed and performance of the GT using normal DOS XL. Other software publishers are readying software which will allow the RAM Charger equipped GT to produce "archival", or back-up, copies of your original, copy-protected software titles.

What does CP/M mean to me?

Why should a new operating system for the Atari make my life any better? Using DOS XL instead of Atari's DOS 2.X or 3.X may give you some improved capabilities and more storage capacity on your disks, but does nothing about giving you access to more versatile and powerful software. It is unfortunate that many software developers considered the Atari Computer as primarily a home/game machine and limited the capabilities of their software accordingly. This is a fact many owners are unaware of until they have invested hundreds and hundreds of dollars in Atari hardware -- printers, disk drives, modems, monitors, software, ad infinitum -- and then are faced with either living with the limitations or throwing out their existing computer system and buying a new one.

CP/M does not have these limitations. CP/M stands for Control Program for Microcomputers, and is a disk operating system that was written by Digital Research, Inc. in 1976 to support and operate on computers manufactured then and now by hundreds of independent companies. More than 10,000 programs currently exist which will operate on computers with CP/M capabilities. CP/M is the primary operating system for the first generation of personal computers and is the father of IBM PC DOS. Owners of the GT Disk Drive will find the transition from DOS XL (in the Command Processor Mode) to CP/M and IBM PC DOS very simple. From the user's view point, the primary differences will be that CP/M and IBM PC DOS refer to their disk drives as "A:" instead of "D1:",

"B:" instead of "D2:", "C:" instead of "D3:" and so on.

The availability of CP/M software will extend the useful life of your Atari computer and protect the hundred's of dollars of investment you have made in your computer system. In many cases the developers of software for the Atari did not provide the power and flexibility in their programs that professional and/or business users require. CP/M on the other hand, was and is primarily business and professional oriented - wordprocessors, spreadsheets, data base management programs are numerous and world class in capability, they have typically been on the market longer and are both more developed and mature (bug free). Most popular bookstores carry volumes on how to use WordStar (a word processor by Micro Pro), dBase II (a data base manager by Ashton-Tate), or Super Calc (a spread sheet program by Sorcim). In many cases the data files and diskettes produced by these programs can be directly transported to their IBM counterparts; use your Atari at home to work on spreadsheets, data bases or wordprocessor files which can then be transported for use on your IBM at work.

Affordably Priced

At \$129.00, less than the price you would normally pay for CP/M alone, you receive: the RAM Charger Module, which you can install in a matter of minutes using only a phillips screwdriver; a copy of Synchromesh II with documentation; two diskettes required for CP/M - a diskette which teaches your Atari Computer to act as a terminal for the computer inside your GT Disk Drive, and a diskette which boots CP/M and contains the "transient command" files that let you get more done with your CP/M system; instructions for installation of the RAM Charger Module; an introduction to CP/M and the unique functions and features of the Future Systems/Atari/GT version of CP/M; and a lengthier discussion of CP/M's intrinsic and "transient command" files written by Digital Research.

The \$99.00 offer for the RAM Charger Module includes both the Synchromesh II and Terminal Diskettes and adds a third diskette which contains only the CP/M BIOS (the Basic Input/Output System which "customizes" CP/M for each individual computer type on which it is installed); this was offered as a convenience for those who already own copies of CP/M or who wish to purchase it separately, but consider yourself warned: the price for CP/M purchased separately from the computer is typically \$150.00 by itself. Use the attached order form today and begin getting the most from your Atari Computer.

More Support In Process

- **80-Column Hardware** (Atari 80 Column only)
- **Disk Interchange Utility** (Read/Write other System Diskettes -- including IBM)

WARRANTY?

Save Money With An Extended Warranty Special Offer.

Although your warranty with Indus Systems has expired, you can re-instate this valuable insurance against failure with a special offer by Future Systems. If you act before October 31, 1986, your GT Disk Drive can receive an extended, one-year warranty for only **\$29.95**.

This will continue to protect your valuable investment in the GT Disk Drive at a considerable savings over the \$60.00 flat-rate repair charge normally required each and every time your out-of-warranty unit is returned to Future Systems for repair.

The Extended Warranty Offer includes the cost of cleaning the read-write heads; replacement of belts, pressure pads, and other potentially worn out parts; replacing of **all** defective parts; read/write head alignment and other adjustments; incorporation of latest engineering changes (if any); and a thorough computerized testing of all functions after a twenty-four hour burn-in.

The \$29.95 Extended Warranty Offer is being made available by Future Systems as a going-into-business special favor for current GT Disk Drive owners. The Offer will expire on October 31, 1986 -- so hurry and take advantage of this money saving opportunity! See your order form for details.

All GT Disk Drives that are **not** under either the original Future Systems warranty or extended warranty are subject to a Flat Rate Repair Charge of \$60.00. This flat rate covers the same services as the extended warranty (outlined above) as well as return freight or postage costs.

Spelling Checker for GT Estate Wordprocessor

During the past several months, a spelling checker for the GT Estate Wordprocessor has been added to the complement of software included with the purchase of GT Disk Drives.

The **GT Speller** is included on the same disk as the wordprocessor and offers a simple way of checking the spelling of documents created by the GT Estate Wordprocessor -- the GT Speller can also check the spelling of documents written by compatible word processing programs.

The vocabulary of the GT Speller (words which it already knows how to spell) is approximately 30,000 words. In addition to its existing, built-in vocabulary the GT Speller makes it simple for you to create your own vocabulary files. You use a word processor to improve the appearance of your written document, make certain this effort isn't wasted by the negative impressions caused by mis-spelled words -- the minute or so required to have your computer double check your spelling will be worth the effort.

GT owners who did not receive the GT Speller program with their original GT Estate Wordprocessor, may purchase the GT Speller, complete with diskette and documentation, for only \$9.95. Please specify whether Atari or Commodore versions of the GT Speller are desired.

Use the attached form for your order. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery.

Synchromesh II Introduced

Future Systems is happy to announce the release of Synchromesh II. This new version of Synchromesh speeds up (by approximately 2:1) the read/write speed of the original Synchromesh. RAM Charger enhanced GT Owners will find the "disk buffer" function which Synchromesh II makes available to them will more than double the system performance of the original Synchromesh.

The latest versions of several utility files are also included on the Synchromesh II diskette: GTRPM.COM, a speed checker; RAM130.COM, a RAM Disk Utility for owners of Atari 130XE or other models with compatible memory enhancements; and INITSYNC.COM, a utility which will permit Synchromesh to be turned on during the boot process, so that the booting of your DOS XL can be speeded up, as well as normal reading and writing.

Synchromesh II, complete with diskette and documentation, is available for only \$14.95.

Drive Care Accessories

Two items are being offered for sale by Future Systems which are designed to provide additional care and protection for your GT Disk Drive:

Dust Cover - A special "car cover" that has been designed to protect your GT Disk Drive from the harsh elements that surround your computer system. These dust covers are black with an attractive silver monogram and have been specifically tailored for your GT from heavy duty, weatherproof nylon. Never again worry about spilled coffee or stray dust.

Head Cleaning Kit - After careful study, the engineering group at Future Systems has selected a head cleaning kit that will optimize long trouble free use of your GT Disk Drive. Keeping your GT in top running order is the best insurance against failure at critical times.

The dust covers are available for \$9.95 each; head cleaning kits are \$14.95 each.

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